

President's Column

The Quilt That's Sha'ar Zahav

Column adapted from Merry Luskin's installation remarks, delivered on June 15.

This is a very wonderful moment for me. I am so thrilled that all of you are here—my friends in and outside of the congregation, the friends I work with at Hillel, and my parents and brother who have come from very far away to share this amazing event.

I am honored especially to be standing here with the illustrious and wonderful people who have just been elected to assume office as leaders of our congregation. But it wouldn't be much of a thrill if I was a new president of any other group. Sha'ar Zahav is not just any synagogue, and all of us here tonight are not just any people. The passing of the Torah is so beautiful and meaningful because we are a group that never dared believe before that the Torah and all it represents could belong to us, and that we could belong to it. A small group of gay and lesbian Jews 13 years ago decided to embark on an adventure of reclaiming and belonging. Their dream has come true, and is now shared by so many of us.

A common human trait, and one that I certainly have, is the belief about ourselves that we are unique. I treasure this belief about myself, even though it causes me no end of grief because I am sure that no one else shares my interests and preferences. I show one part of me here, another part there, and so on. I imagine a lot of you feel the same.

Some of you may know that the other thing besides the synagogue that I spend a lot of my time on is fiber arts, especially making handspun yarns.

I was delighted a few weeks ago to read about something that combined by two great loves. In an article in the Sunday review section about a book on American textile arts, there was a description of a fundraising quilt. It was

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• High Holidays 1990/5751 •

Members of the Ritual and High Holiday Planning committees are busily working to make this year's High Holiday services beautiful and meaningful. Here is some information so that you may begin to plan your attendance and participation.

Service Schedule

Clip and save! The September *Forward* will have a more complete version. All services will be held at the Unitarian Center (1187 Franklin at Geary in San Francisco) unless otherwise noted.

Selichot

Saturday, September 15

9:30 pm at Congregation Sha'ar Zahav

Rosh Hashanah, First Day

Wednesday, September 19

7:30 pm, Ma'ariv

Thursday, September 20

10:00 am, Shacharit, Musaf, and Children's Service

1:30 pm, Seudat Mitzvah (festival meal) at Fort Point

3:30 pm, Tashlich at Fort Point

Rosh Hashanah, Second Day

Friday, September 21

10:00 am, Shacharit and Musaf at Congregation Sha'ar Zahav

Yom Kippur

Friday, September 28

7:30 pm, Kol Nidre

Saturday, September 29

10:00 am, Shacharit, Musaf, and Children's Service

3:30 pm, Minchah

5:00 pm, Yizkor, Neilah, and Havdallah

High Holidays Services Participation

In our synagogue's tradition of lay leadership and congregant participation in ritual observance, we are again offering the opportunity for any member to have a part in our High Holiday services. Readings in English, chants in Hebrew, Torah portions, and shofar blowing parts will be available. See the High Holiday services participation form (page 10) for details and deadlines for volunteering.

Begin Your Year with a Mitzvah

It's not too early to volunteer your help! If you are interested in helping to set up the onegs, serve as an usher, assist with child care, or set up the sanctuary, your help would be very much appreciated. Call Claudia Bernard at 647-1196 or Scott Mezistrano at 681-1714.

Obligation or Charity?

Financial affairs, I often hear, are "not spiritual." Nothing is further from the truth, because our budgets—whether at home or at the synagogue—directly and honestly reflect our values and commitments. This month you are being asked as a Sha'ar Zahav member to make your dues pledge for the coming year. How should we think about synagogue dues? As our teachers have asked: "*Mashall'mah ha-davar domeh?* To what can this be compared?"

Often we consider synagogue dues to be a form of charity. Charity is a category that our society recognizes. We know that the shul is an acceptable charity because our donations are tax deductible. Charity is always voluntary and, as Americans, we prefer things that way. We give charity (from the Latin, *caritas*, love) as our hearts move us. If our hearts are not moved, then we need not give.

The synagogue is like a charity in some ways. Our donors deserve to feel good about having helped to provide for the needs of the community. But the core relationship of charity must always remain "otherness"—one gives charity to provide for others. If we only support the synagogue for others, then we are not fully part of it ourselves.

Another way of thinking about the synagogue is as a "Judaism retailer" where you pay on a fee-for-service basis. Thus, people may say, "I don't use it a lot, why should I pay a lot?" I get calls from individuals who tell me that although they have never joined, CSZ is "their shul." When they lose a family member, have a simchah, just want to pray, or need a rabbi, a sanctuary or a congregation to worship with, "What is the proper fee," they ask.

These individuals assume that someone else will maintain the synagogue staff and resources, print the prayer-books, heat the building, answer the phones and provide the onegs so that when they "need the synagogue," it will be there. This consumer model of synagogue affiliation is the opposite of the charity model. The charitable giver provides for others; the consumer provides for him/herself as needed. Neither one assumes responsibility or truly gets involved.

How about dues as taxes? In many

ways, this is an accurate analogy. Tax money is used to provide basic services that are necessary to maintain society. We know we cannot negotiate the tax rate we pay. We pay taxes up front and recognize the obligation to pay taxes as one of the responsibilities of adulthood.

I, however, do not think taxes are an accurate analogy. I say I believe in more government services, but I'm always trying to reduce the amount of tax I have to pay! Most of us pay the minimum amount in taxes we can and then, only reluctantly. Further, we rarely feel any connection between the money we pay out and the services and public works the government allegedly provides. I may be outraged at government misuse of funds but I rarely think of the Mission-Van Ness freeway offramp as my own.

Sometimes we call our dues *tzedakah*. *Tzedakah* is the closest Hebrew equivalent to charity. Its root meaning, though, is justice or righteousness. The mitzvah of *tzedakah*, sharing our resources, emphasizes the Jewish understanding of social justice as a personal responsibility.

Many aspects of our synagogue program are *tzedakah*. Wine and challah were originally provided in the synagogue for travelers who had no place to eat a shabbat meal. For some, our oneg shabbat refreshments serve this purpose. Our AIDS, Bikkur Cholim, Education and Sanctuary Bond Funds, seder subsidies, AIDS food baskets and other programs are *tzedakah*. And while the synagogue does many *tzedakah* activities, paying the mortgage, rabbi, and staff, printing this newsletter, mailing yahrzeit reminders and heating the sanctuary primarily benefits ourselves. So our dues do not pay only for *tzedakah*. At the same time, paying our dues does not fulfill our mitzvah obligation to give *tzedakah*.

While paying synagogue dues is in some ways like giving charity, buying consumer goods and paying taxes, it ultimately differs from all of them. The obligation to support the synagogue is a mitzvah of the greatest importance in its own right. In medieval times, the community had the power of taxation and could coerce people to both pay their financial obligation and attend the synagogue to make up the minyan. Today,

our involvement is voluntary. Our commitment is perhaps, therefore, more meaningful. The maintenance and support of the synagogue is a mitzvah which benefits the community and ourselves. The synagogue is a primary place of meeting, where we encounter God, Torah and our people. Judaism—and the synagogue—is our living heritage, whose wisdom and traditions and community enriches our lives. It deserves support *b'chol levavcha*, all of our hearts, *b'chol nafshecha*, our souls, *u'b'chol m'odechah*, our resources.

—Rabbi Yoel Kahn

The Jewish Gaily Forward is published 11 times annually by Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 220 Danvers at Caselli, San Francisco, California 94114, (415) 861-6932. Permission to reproduce material is freely given, and credit would be appreciated.

Members of the Congregation receive the *Forward*. For a donation of \$12/year, non-members will receive the *Forward*.

All newsletter copy should be typed, double-spaced and is due no later than the date of the Va'ad meeting. It should be sent to the synagogue office, marked to the attention of the *Forward*. All material is subject to editing; material will not be returned.

Members of the Newsletter Committee are Alita Rosenfeld & Howard Blechman, co-chairs, Leonard Brill, Joan Gelfand, Lane Schickler and Robin Leonard (general editorial and production), Michael Bettinger and Shirley Liberman (photographers), Rick Wilson (advertising coordinator), Allan Brandstein, Frank Hyman, Alex Ingersoll, Hal Podgur, Sam Thal and Eli Weinstein (distribution). The *Forward* is typeset by David Lester, Mouse Type Inc., and printed by Lou Greene.

Display Ads are \$15 per column inch for non-members and \$10 per column inch for members, with discounts available for size and frequency. Ads should be camera ready; any ads that require typesetting, camera and/or artwork will be subject to a one-time production charge.

Classified Ads are \$5 for up to 20 words, plus \$1 for each 10 additional words. No personals accepted.

Payment must accompany ad and should be sent to Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 220 Danvers at Caselli, San Francisco, California 94114, marked attention *Forward* advertising. The advertising deadline is the second Monday of the month. The *Forward* reserves the right to reject any ad for reasons of taste.

Soviet Jewry—CSZ Responds

At its May 14 meeting, the Va'ad adopted the following resolution as proposed by the Social Action Committee and Israel Chavurah:

"Be it resolved, that CSZ, recognizing the extremely difficult and urgent circumstances under which Jews emigrating from the Soviet Union are struggling to establish themselves in other lands, and especially in Israel, will contribute \$1,000 toward their aid."

Since the resolution's passage, \$500 has been donated to the Jewish Community Federation's (JCF) Operation Exodus and \$500 to the Association of Reform Zionists of America (ARZA) for their efforts to assist Soviet Jews in Israel.

For over 70 years, the Jews of the Soviet Union have been cut off from almost all ties with Judaism and the Jewish people. Now that tens of thousands of Soviet Jews are arriving in Israel, ways must be found to introduce them to Jewish tradition and culture. Israel's Reform movement has launched a special program to welcome Soviet Jews, and to introduce them to a modern, progressive understanding of Judaism.

The Leo Black School in Haifa has accepted 60 Russian children and young adults. Kibbutz Yahel, the Reform kibbutz in the Negev, expects to take in eight families and 10 singles. The World Union for Progressive Judaism in Jerusalem is organizing Russian study groups and preparing adult education courses for Russians on Progressive Judaism. Reform congregations have offered free membership to Russian immigrants, provided special Bar/Bat Mitzvah programs for Russian children, and are "adopting" Russian families.

ARZA has set up a special scholarship fund to enable Russian children to attend Reform pre-schools and Reform day schools in Israel. In addition, the ARZA-sponsored Israel Religious Action Center has established a Legal Aid and Information Center for Soviet Jews in Israel. ARZA has expressed concern and alarm that Israel's Interior Ministry, which is run by an ultra-Orthodox party, has refused to register many Soviet arrivals as Jews because the immigrants have had difficulty proving their halakhic (Jewish law) status. Some arrivals have been sent to Orthodox rabbinic courts and required to "prove" that they are Jewish. ARZA is fighting to ensure that

religious politics are not permitted to interfere with the absorption of Soviet Jews.

The new Legal Aid Center is staffed by a Russian-speaking counselor, operates five days per week, and charges no fee for its services. Individuals who seek assistance are provided with information and legal counsel when necessary.

A speaker from the JCF will discuss Operation Exodus at shabbat services on July 13.

Additionally, at the June Va'ad meeting, the Va'ad authorized that a mailing be sent to each member of the congregation to encourage participation in this historic opportunity.

—Lisa Katz, *Social Action co-chair*

Ron Lezell, *Israel Chavurah chair*

Jonathan Mesinger,
Social Action co-chair

Guest Cantor at Services

David Serkin-Poole, cantor of Temple B'nai Torah in Seattle, will be guest cantor at shabbat services at CSZ on Friday evening, July 27.

David, and his life partner, Michael, recently made legal history. They were the first gay couple allowed to adopt a child in the state of Washington. A second couple has now been allowed to do so, following the precedent set by the two men. And they are counseling other potential adoptive parents.

Those lucky enough to have been guests in the Serkin-Poole home are struck by the warm and loving Yiddishkeit one finds there.

Services will be co-led by Mike Rankin, who as usual will not sing a note!

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Several weeks back, an acquaintance asked if he might accompany me to services at CSZ. Though not a Jew, he was interested in understanding something of our community. And so, he sat with me during shabbat services last week. All during the service, I found myself acutely aware of each and every aspect of ritual as I could feel it distilled through the experience of my guest. A man of lively intelligence, he fired many questions at me during the oneg and I found myself trying to explain many parts of Judaic observance that leave me conflicted still. Several times I heard myself say, "Do you mean how is this done in a traditional congregation, a classical Reform congregation or at CSZ?" And then trying, and not always succeeding, to explain the differences.

I approached CSZ's Shavuot Tikkun with these questions very much on my mind. Raised in an Orthodox home, I am still uncertain of my newly acquired nomenclature "Reform Jew." ("First Feminist Hasid," I always tell the rabbi, who shakes his head in bewilderment.) I know how the tikkun is done in a traditional congregation (the men study through the night) and in a classical Reform congregation (it's not). This being my first experience of a tikkun at CSZ, I wasn't entirely sure if the differences were likely to be true distinctions.

We began with a dairy potluck in which there were more than a dozen gastronomic delights from kugels (sweet and savory) to blintzes to guacamole to a nothing-at-all-like-Kraft macaroni and cheese casserole. There was much animated conversation and laughter among the 30 or so gathered around the table. Following dinner was Ma'ariv led by Daniel Chesir and Larry Wexler with some timely handouts (these *de rigueur* at CSZ I have learned). Rabbi Kahn gave a moving tribute to the late Rabbi Charisse Kranes. He pointed out how fitting Shavuot is her *yahrzeit* as she gave so much of herself as teacher to our congregation and community.

At the conclusion of the service, Leslie Bergson led us through "Songs in the Key of Shavuot" which included several rounds, some rousing foot stamping ("Chach, chach, chach ba-tof!"), translation debate ("Dundai?"), remembered moments from camp, school, family, and considerable laughter. Then, suitably

prepped, we retired to the Study House for coffee, brownies, cherry-cheese pie and poppyseed cake.

I began our study session, having chosen as my text the Shavuot Haftarah, Isaiah 42:1-12 and the second in the cycle of Servant Songs, Isaiah 49:1-6. I proposed that we discuss these texts in light of the rabbinic commentary found in *Sifre*, Piskas 346, "... when you are My witnesses, I am God, but when you are not My witnesses, I am not God, if one may say such a thing..." For the next hour, we talked of the responsibilities and privileges enjoined in being God's witness and servant. And, we were left with a good many more questions to consider both as a congregation and as individuals.

Rabbi Eric Weiss was up next and began a discussion of our relationship as Jews to the environment. Working first in small groups, we analyzed the opening passages of Genesis, looking in the text for the ways in which nature is "organically Jewish." And then, with only our wits and colored paper to go on, we constructed *midrashim* which symbolized our personal relationship as Jews to the environment. Amid much laughter ("You must learn to *share* your gluestick, Shoshana."), we found new resources with which to pose our questions and seek answers to them.

Near midnight, we moved out under the stars (there were clouds by now, but we were all sure of stars) as Rabbi Kahn led us through Kaddish and the singing of *Oseh Shalom*. Gathered in this circle,

we each acknowledged the gift of Torah and community that we had shared that evening. Our study concluded with our rabbi's analysis of how as Jews we might construct a new paradigm of sexual ethics which, though based upon the spirit of halachic integrity, could embrace liberal values and identity.

Sometime past midnight, we hugged each other *chag sameach* and closed the door of the Study House behind us. On my way home, I found myself reflecting once again upon those words from *Sifre*. We had, indeed, that night been witnesses to God's law, to congregation and to community. And I believe, if one may say such a thing, that we each experienced "tikkun" in many of its aspects. Heads full of questions, hearts full of commitment, this "mending" might be a beginning—and this, I have learned at CSZ, constitutes our task, our teaching, our Torah.

—Susan Sobel-Feldman

Scholar-in-Residence Weekend

We began our Bar/Bat Mitzvah celebrations on Friday, June 8 with CSZ's first Scholar-in-Residence Weekend. Rabbi Stacey Offner of Congregation Shir Tikvah in Minnesota gave an inspiring sermon on "Levites and Lepers: A Coming of Age."

Saturday, after our regular services, Rabbi Offner led a Torah study on the "Book of Ruth." We read the text in its entirety and had a lively discussion on the complex meanings that the writers posed. On Saturday afternoon Rabbi Kahn and Dan Bellm hosted an open house for the congregation and the community. This was an opportunity to have an informal meeting with Rabbi Offner.

Rabbi Offner's many friends in our community and the wonderful turnout from our congregation made this a memorable weekend. Our thanks to Rabbi Offner, Rabbi Kahn, the Education Committee and the family of David Delroy, whose gift in David's memory underwrote the weekend. The first Scholar-in-Residence Weekend was a great success.

The Friends of the Jewish Community Library are proud to present *Stereotypes and Prototypes: Images of Women in the Bible*, a series of four lectures led by Susan Sobel-Feldman, local educator and writer. (Sobel-Feldman dedicates this series to the memory of the late Rabbi Charisse Kranes.)

The lectures will be held at 2 pm on four Sundays: July 22, August 19, September 9 and October 14.

The Jewish Community Library of the Bureau of Jewish Education is located at 601 14th Ave. (at Balboa), San Francisco. Call 751-6938.

May and June Va'ad Reports

The June newsletter was devoted to our upcoming Bar/Bat Mitzvah and did not include a Va'ad report, so this month I will be covering both the May and June Va'ad meetings.

The May Va'ad meeting began with the customary call to order and check in. Rabbi Kahn was not in attendance, and Leslie Bergson, who will be leaving the congregation shortly as a rabbinic student, led us in D'var Torah. Quoting from this week's Torah portion, she spoke of the sanctification of the divine name, and how it is built into every act. We take action in the world not only for ourselves, but in the name of God and for all Israel.

The Va'ad began by voting to appoint Brett Trueman as acting treasurer for the remaining six weeks of the fiscal year (Brett is our treasurer-elect). Ben Schalit resigned as treasurer after the April Va'ad meeting, leaving a vacancy in that office.

The first two-and-a-half hours of the meeting were devoted to the issue of dues policy interpretation, with Susan Colson and later David Gellman acting as facilitators for this difficult and sometimes highly charged discussion. A closed session about this matter at the end of the April Va'ad meeting was what prompted the resignation of the treasurer, Ben Schalit, and threatened to be divisive to the Va'ad and the congregation. In addition to Va'ad members, 17 members of the congregation who had opinions and concerns about this issue, including several past treasurers, attended.

An individual had applied for membership who stated ability but unwillingness to conform to the 1 percent dues guideline policy, and also expressed discomfort about certain aspects of CSZ. This individual's application raised many questions about how our dues policy should be applied, and whether the application should be accepted or rejected. Some members of the Va'ad felt that individuals unwilling to support the congregation financially according to our fair share dues guideline should not be accepted as members. They felt that dues education, which has been underway for several years in an attempt to bring both members and applicants up to the 1-percent guideline, would be undermined and the long-term financial health of the congregation would be endangered by setting this precedent. Oth-

er members felt that dues should not be a consideration in accepting membership applications—that many current members had started off low and increased both their dues and their commitment to the synagogue over time.

Va'ad members on both sides of this issue felt equally strongly about their points of view, and a great deal of discussion took place, structured and led by the facilitators. Members did not all share a common interpretation of our dues



policy, and were troubled at various times by the complexity of the issues and the difficulty in understanding or agreeing about these gray areas. The time constraints of the meeting did not allow the Va'ad to explore all aspects of dues policy, its interpretation, and its application. Everyone agreed this must be done, however, and time will be devoted to it at the annual leadership Advance in July. The Va'ad did vote on the application of the individual in question, and the motion to admit this person to membership did not pass.

The next item on the agenda was Operation Exodus. Evan Mendelson, an associate executive director of the Jewish Community Federation (JCF) spoke about the work being done to help Russian Jewish emigres, both here and in Israel. San Francisco becomes home to 2,000 emigres each year, and 10,000 have settled in Israel just in the past month. The JCF has set a goal of raising \$25 million—including \$4 million to assist the local community and \$21 million to help those who settle in Israel. Resettle-

ment, acculturation to Jewish life, job training and legal aid are just some of the services needed by the emigres. Evan also spoke about Shalom '91—a major community mission to Israel being planned for 1991. The JCF hopes to have at least 1,000 Jews from the Bay Area participate to show solidarity with the emigres, as well as to have some influence over resettlement policies in Israel. Some members asked whether any of the JCF funds go to resettlement in the West Bank and Gaza, and were told that this is not the case—funds to those areas come from the Israeli government rather than from Jewish agencies in America. After Evan's presentation the Va'ad approved a contribution of \$1,000 to aid Russian Jewish emigres, to be equally divided between the UJA Operation Exodus campaign and ARZA.

Irene Ogus reported that a new office manager has been chosen—Mark Pressler—and he is ready to begin work immediately. Mark is a native San Franciscan, has many skills to offer, and is familiar with the local Jewish community. The Va'ad voted to appoint Mark as our new office manager effective May 15. Jenny Helbraun was attending her last meeting as our outgoing office manager, and Eric Keitel presented her with a Havdallah set on behalf of the Va'ad in thanks for her wonderful and hard work over the years.

Scott Mezistrano presented recommendations for High Holidays 1990 as revised after the first presentation at the April Va'ad meeting. The system developed by Scott and Claudia Bernard involves tickets for Erev Rosh Hashanah and Erev Yom Kippur, where crowding has been a problem for several years. Comments and suggestions made at this meeting were noted by Scott, and the recommendations will be passed on to the planning body for High Holidays.

Eric Keitel briefly mentioned several letters received by the congregation: congratulations and/or contributions for our Bar/Bat Mitzvah from Am Tikva in Boston and Congregation Or Chadash in Chicago, thank-you letters from the AIDS Food Bank and Jewish Family and Children's Services, and notice of a subvention from Sinai Memorial Chapel. A brief discussion of art in the sanctuary was held, which ended in Va'ad approv-

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Perspectives on Adoption

Lesbians and gay men have learned that biological ties are not necessary to build a family. Often our families of choice—lovers and friends—have replaced our families of origin as sources of ongoing day-to-day nurturance. Combine this positive, first-hand experience with the built-in “infertility” of gay sexual relations and the increased infertility of women who wait until they have established careers to have children, then add Jewish culture’s emphasis on the importance of having children, and you have a natural pool of adopters among lesbian and gay Jews.

Needless to say, adoption is more difficult for lesbians and gays because agencies and relinquishing birth parents will usually prefer heterosexual adoptive parents. Even so, many lesbian and gay Sha’ar Zahav members have built families through adoption or donor insemination, and may be facing their children’s questions about their birth families or other challenges related to the differences in adoption. Other synagogue members are adult adoptees who have searched for their birth families or may be considering searching. And many in our community have relatives who are adopted, so may find this discussion of interest.

Most people today are aware that some adoptees search for their birth families, and some birth parents, generally mothers, want to contact their relinquished children. There is often a deep desire to connect with those mysterious people who conceived and gave birth to them, or those children who were raised by others. Searches are pursued despite the closed records laws in 47 states. Some searches succeed; others are unable to unlock the doors even when doing so could shed light on adolescent identity crises or chronic inherited medical conditions. Some adoptees have paid thousands of dollars to underground searchers in their desperation to have lifelong questions answered.

Is there a Jewish perspective on adoption searches? Naturally, there are several. In 1986, Rabbi Zlotowitz of New York offered his opinion in *Reform Judaism* that searches for birth parents are *not* necessary today. Besides, he continued, searching is an affront to the birth parents, who, “by giving up their child for adoption and agreeing to confidentiality ...

are saying, in effect, that they want no further contact with the child.”

But this is not the whole story. Several issues later, *Reform Judaism* published a response by Sally Brown, a California woman who had surrendered a child to adoption. She wrote, “What civilization, what religious body could justify the separation of child from mother on the grounds that she is entitled to anonymity? The papers I signed in 1950 relinquishing my son for adoption made no such promise to me.... An enlightened and empathetic rabbinate would be able to serve the emotional and spiritual needs of those Jews who are part of the adoption triangle, better than a rabbinate whose views are stagnating in the adoption miasma of the 1930s.”

In wanting to meet and talk with their birth parents, adoptees are not making the statement that blood is thicker than water, but that genetics and biology do count for something. Unfortunately some adoptive parents misunderstand the significance of searches and feel threatened by their children’s questions. People who are not adopted sometimes have difficulty understanding this, but paradoxically they do understand the desires of non-adopted people to research distant branches of their genealogical trees.

There is a chance that the 1990s will signal a move toward adoptee access to original birth certificates. At this writing, a bill in the California Legislature is being considered that would allow adopted adults and birth parents to be able to learn each others’ names on request (also allowing individuals who do not wish to be found to indicate this). Several Australian states already have open records as do Israel, Great Britain, New Zealand, and Scotland.

One recourse for reunions that exists currently in the United States is a computer match system that is free of charge to adoptees and birth parents. Both sides must fill out a form indicating their willingness to be contacted; individuals can write to International Soundex Reunion Registry, P.O. Box 2312, Carson City, NV 89702 and ask for a form.

East Bay Lunch Bunch. Work in downtown Oakland? Four CSZ members met by chance at Pho 84. We’d like to do it monthly. Anyone else interested, call Alita at 526-2394.

The emotional and legal complexities of adoption for all people involved are numerous. Sherry Rosen of the American Jewish Committee in New York wrote that the Jewish community must begin to address some hard issues regarding adoption, especially cross-cultural and transnational adoption, which is popular among Jews today. Rosen quotes journalist and adoptive father Lawrence Bush (*Genesis 2*, Winter 1987–88): “What, then, am I asking of adoptive parents ...? Only that they be conscious of the privilege that has gained for them the ability to overcome the infertility curse, and that they channel that consciousness into a sense of *tikkun olam* that includes, but goes beyond, the loving attention they give to their adopted children. Our world is terribly imbalanced when whole nations are unable to hold on to their younger generations.”

We as a society should support families in crisis so the original parents can retain custody of their children whenever possible. Of course when adoption is the best option available for a child, lesbians and gay men should not face discrimination. There is also a need to continue the fight for legal acceptance of two adoptive parents of the same gender and legal protection of the non-biological mother in donor insemination births. Current discrimination against lesbian and gay parents only adds a further element of fear and conflict to the potentially adversarial solution between birth parents (including donors) and adoptive parents. The child is then caught in the middle.

Adoption has lifelong implications. In fact, children and grandchildren of adoptees carry the curiosity of their adopted ancestry into the future. To discuss these concerns, support groups for birth parents, adoptees, and adoptive parents are held throughout the Bay Area; PACER of Walnut Creek (935-6622) can send you a list of its groups. Groups also exist within the gay and lesbian communities. For information on adoptee support groups, write me at P.O. Box 8081, Berkeley, CA 94707 or phone me at 524-3586.

—Janine Baer

The author is a member of CSZ’s Social Action Committee, an adoptee, and editor of *Chain of Life*, a feminist adoption reform newsletter.

1 Sunday
8 Tammuz

2 Monday
9 Tammuz

3 Tuesday
10 Tammuz

4 Wednesday
11 Tammuz
Independence Day

5 Thursday
12 Tammuz
• 6:30pm, Long-Range Planning Meeting

6 Friday
13 Tammuz
• Leadership Advance
• 7:30–8:05pm, Gift shop open
• 8:15pm, Services, Balak, Lyssa Friedman and Bill Schlichter

7 Saturday
14 Tammuz
• Leadership Advance

8 Sunday
15 Tammuz
• Leadership Advance

9 Monday
16 Tammuz
• 7:30–10pm, Gift shop open

10 Tuesday
17 Tammuz
• 7:30pm, Feminism & Judaism

11 Wednesday
18 Tammuz

12 Thursday
19 Tammuz

13 Friday
20 Tammuz
• 7:30–8:05pm, Gift shop open
• 8:15pm, Services, Pinchas, Operation Exodus service, Frank Masson and Dana Vinicoff

14 Saturday
21 Tammuz

15 Sunday
22 Tammuz
• 11am, Ritual Objects class

16 Monday
23 Tammuz

17 Tuesday
24 Tammuz

18 Wednesday
25 Tammuz

19 Thursday
26 Tammuz
• 7:30pm, Bikkur Cholim

20 Friday
27 Tammuz
• 6:30pm, Jewish Home for the Aged service and visit
• 7:30–8:05pm, Gift shop open
• 8:15pm, Services, Matot/Masei, Torah Service, Rabbi Yoel Kahn and Daniel Chesir

21 Saturday
28 Tammuz

22 Sunday
29 Tammuz

23 Monday
1 Av
• 7:30–10pm, Gift shop open

24 Tuesday
2 Av

25 Wednesday
3 Av

26 Thursday
4 Av
• 6:30pm, Ritual Committee
• 7:30pm, Social Action Committee

27 Friday
5 Av
• 7:30–8:05pm, Gift shop open
• 8:15pm, Services, Devarim, Mike Rankin and guest cantor David Serkin-Poole, childcare available

28 Saturday
6 Av
• 10:30am, Morning services, Devarim, Learning Service, Rabbi Yoel Kahn and Claire Sherman
• 4pm, Jewish Family and Children's Services AIDS Spiritual Gathering, Rabbi Yoel Kahn and Bill Schlichter

29 Sunday
7 Av
• 10:30am, Kaiser Brunch, Kaiser Hospital, San Francisco

30 Monday
8 Av
• 8pm, Tisha B'Av services, Ora Prochovnik and Larry Wexler

31 Tuesday
9 Av
Tisha B'Av

New Members

The Membership Committee is pleased to announce that our congregation gained several new members and friends in June. A warm welcome to the latest people to join our family:

Anne G. Friedman

New members are welcomed and honored at Friday night services on the last Friday of the month. By making them feel a part of our family, we can all help to show our new members that they have a valuable place at Sha'ar Zahav.



Anniversaries

- 7/4 Robin Leonard & Lee Ryan
- 7/6 Sandra Blair & Carol Cohen
- 7/24 Tom Steel & Milton Estes
- 7/25 Carole Migden & Cris Arguedas
- 8/1 Leila Raim & Catherine Wisniewski
- 8/11 Ron Wolberg & Bruce Connell
- 8/14 Allan Blumenfeld & Morris A. Woolfson
- 8/15 Jonathan Funk & John Arnold
- 8/18 Steve Unger & Paul Quin
- 8/20 Francie Hornstein & Ellen Peskin
- 8/23 Eric Keitel & Aaron Cooper

Saturday Morning Learning Minyan

Join Rabbi Kahn and guest service leader Claire Sherman at shabbat morning services on July 28 at 10:30 am for a Learning Shabbat. This special service will include study of the structure and themes of the shabbat morning service and an opportunity to learn new melodies for the liturgy. If you've been reluctant to attend a shabbat morning service because you are not familiar with the liturgy, here's an opportunity to learn. If you are considering leading a shabbat morning service, this service is just for you.

1 Wednesday 10 Av • Kadimah registration deadline	9 Thursday 18 Av • Gay Games, Vancouver, B.C.	16 Thursday 25 Av • 7:30pm, Bikkur Cholim	25 Saturday 4 Elul • 10:30am, Morning Services, Shoftim, Rabbi Yoel Kahn and Dana Vinicoff
2 Thursday 11 Av • 6:30pm, Long-Range Planning Meeting	10 Friday 19 Av • Gay Games, Vancouver, B.C. • Western Regional Conference of GLBJO in Seattle • 7:30–8:05pm, Gift shop open • 8:15pm, Services, Ekev, Torah Service, Rabbi Yoel Kahn and Scott Mezistrano	17 Friday 26 Av • 7:30–8:05pm, Gift shop open • 8:15pm, Services, Re'eh, Susan Gelmis and Bill Schlichter	26 Sunday 5 Elul • 10:30am, Kaiser Brunch, Kaiser Hospital, San Francisco
3 Friday 12 Av • 7:30–8:05pm, Gift shop open • 8:15pm, Services, Va'etchanan, Tiela Chalmers and Bill Ashley-Dobbin	11 Saturday 20 Av • Gay Games, Vancouver, B.C. • Western Regional Conference of GLBJO in Seattle • 10:30am, Morning services, Ritual Committee	18 Saturday 27 Av	27 Monday 6 Elul • 7:30–10pm, Gift shop open
4 Saturday 13 Av • Gay Games, Vancouver, B.C.	12 Sunday 21 Av • Western Regional Conference of GLBJO in Seattle	19 Sunday 28 Av	28 Tuesday 7 Elul
5 Sunday 14 Av • Gay Games, Vancouver, B.C. • 11am, Ritual Objects class	13 Monday 22 Av • 6:30pm, Va'ad meeting • 7:30–10pm, Gift shop open	20 Monday 29 Av	29 Wednesday 8 Elul
6 Monday 15 Av • Gay Games, Vancouver, B.C.	14 Tuesday 23 Av	21 Tuesday 30 Av • 7:30pm, Newsletter layout/proofing, 1711 Castro, San Francisco	30 Thursday 9 Elul • 6:30pm, Ritual Committee • 7:30pm, Social Action Committee
7 Tuesday 16 Av • Gay Games, Vancouver, B.C.	15 Wednesday 24 Av • 7:30pm, Newsletter editing, 1711 Castro, San Francisco	22 Wednesday 1 Elul	31 Friday 10 Elul • 7:30–8:05pm, Gift shop open • 8:15pm, Services, Ki Tetze, Mike Rankin and Bill Schlichter, childcare available
8 Wednesday 17 Av • Gay Games, Vancouver, B.C.		23 Thursday 2 Elul	
		24 Friday 3 Elul • 7:30–8:05pm, Gift shop open • 8:15pm, Services, Shoftim, Rabbi Yoel Kahn and Ritual Committee	

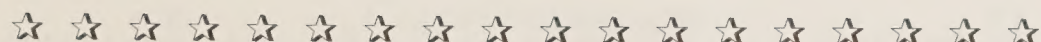
Dr. Diane Sabin

CHIROPRACTOR

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HIV-Positive CSZ Members

CSZ members with AIDS, ARC or who are HIV-positive are invited to an informal schmooze and dinner with Rabbi Yoel Kahn on Tuesday, August 21 at 7 pm at the rabbi's home. If you would like to attend, please RSVP to Josie Crimmins in the CSZ office before August 18; you need not leave your name. This program is open to CSZ members only. For more information, please call Rabbi Kahn at the synagogue.



July-August Birthdays

7/1 Diane Sabin	8/3 Jaclyn Eileen Blachman Forshay
7/1 Susan W.	8/4 Jonathan Funk
7/6 Steven Berlin	8/4 Daniel H.
7/6 Kiva Tal Adler	8/4 Nancy Lynn Snow
7/7 Betty Kalis	8/7 Robert Nacamulli
7/8 Ben Schalit	8/7 David Lenard M.
7/9 Steven Elman	8/8 Sanford Friedman
7/9 Bob Goldware	8/9 Allan Gold
7/10 Bill Schlichter	8/13 Lonnie Weiss
7/10 Pam Ruskin	8/14 Carole Migden
7/11 Laurent Gasperini	8/15 Reuben Greenwald
7/12 Rochelle Wald	8/16 Leland Vogel
7/13 Lee Morrow	8/17 Laura Desiree M.
7/14 Steve Unger	8/17 Lynn E. Scarper
7/14 Isha Mayim	8/19 Dan Bellm
7/15 Jason Dahlstrom	8/19 Paul Cohen
7/16 Peter Jay Rosenfeld	8/20 Sabra Saperstein
7/16 Alice Perlman	8/21 Kate Sharp
7/20 Jane Bailowitz	8/23 Frank Hyman
7/24 Alan Craig	8/24 Joshua Shuster Lefkowitz
7/25 Sally Martin	8/24 Alexander Weil
7/26 Benjamin Morgan-Achtenberg	8/25 Adam Inlander
7/27 Patrice Goldman	8/25 Susan Talley
7/27 Maya Kalia Hauer-Laurencin	8/25 Noah Nacamulli
7/28 David Levine	8/25 Sam Peskin
7/29 Jonathan Schwartz	8/27 Joshua Sternin-Moser
8/1 Tani Stone Thule	8/27 Rachel Sternin-Moser
8/1 Jenifer B. Dahlstrom	8/28 Marc Mencher
8/1 Ed L.	8/30 Shelley R. Spiro
8/2 Francie McGowan	8/31 Eric Rofes

Kadimah Registration

Kadimah, our Sha'ar Zahav religious school, meets on shabbat mornings from 9:30 to 11:30. Our curriculum emphasizes values, Jewish living and synagogue skills and the nurturance and acceptance of individual diversity. Hands-on activities and parent involvement are key components of our program.

Kadimah is open to children of CSZ members in grades K-5. This year we will also be beginning a new bar/bat mitzvah program. Our new school year will begin on Saturday morning, September 8. Registration forms, tuition and scholarship information for the 5751 school year are now available from the synagogue office. Registration is due (and fees go up after) August 1. For more information about our program, please contact our co-chairs, Ellen Giersen or Peter Vishniac, through the office.

Children's Summer Read-About Is Back!

The Children's Library of the Jewish Community Library is once again conducting its Summer Read-About to encourage summer reading. Those youngsters who complete the requirements and read six books on Jewish themes will win their choice of a Golden Gate bay cruise or tickets to an Oakland A's or San Francisco Giants baseball game.

For information, application forms, and reading lists, come to the BJE's Jewish Community Library at 601 14th Ave. (at Balboa) in San Francisco's Richmond District, or contact Joyce Ahern, children's librarian, at 751-6983. The library is open on Sunday, Monday and Wednesday from 10 am to 4 pm, and on Tuesday and Thursday from noon to 8 pm.

Library Notes

Our congregation was founded 13 years ago in 5750—or was it 5737? Whichever it was, you can find out for sure in Arthur Spier's *The Comprehensive Hebrew Calendar*. Were you born on shabbat? The first day of Passover? This invaluable little book can tell you that or what day it will fall on in the future. If you prefer you can write your own calendar from the information given in the book. You can check this book out from the library for two weeks.

The best way to learn about the development of our synagogue over the last 13 years is to read about it in our collection of almost all the back issues of the *Gaily Forward*. Take the time to read them at the library. This collection, like the Talmud, the Encyclopedia Judaica, the Midrash Rabbah, and all works in Hebrew, is a reference work and is not to be taken from the library. Whether the book is marked "For Reference Only" or not, if it does not have a card, don't take it.

Our library has been enriched with the donation by one of our founding members, Shamir Ophel, of archival materials including four copies of the *Forward* that we did not have. We are still missing copies from the latter part of 1978. Many thanks, Shamir, for your donation that helps complete the picture of our history.

The Fiction Connection schedule for July and August is:

- July 19, *After Dolores* by Sarah Schulman, 7:30 pm at China Court restaurant on Castro Street.

- August 23, *The Franz Document* by Joseph Itiel, 7:30 pm at the Capri restaurant on Market Street.

—Bill Ashley-Dobbin

Office Notes

Has Jenny's voice changed, or what? No, you are not hearing things ... Mark Pressler has taken over as office manager. The best way to get acquainted with the new office staff is to volunteer your time. There is plenty to do, and it feels great to help out. Call the synagogue office to find out how you can help.

High Holiday Services Participation Form

We at Congregation Sha'ar Zahav try to provide an opportunity for each member to participate in High Holiday services. There will be Hebrew chants and readings in English for the various services. Only members who return this form to the synagogue office by July 27 can be assured an opportunity to participate. We will try to accommodate preferences for services as much as possible, but parts at evening services are limited.

Please indicate all the services you will attend.

Return to: Congregation Sha'ar Zahav
220 Danvers Street
San Francisco, CA 94114

Form must be received at the synagogue no later than Friday, July 27.

ALERT!

If you are interested in chanting from the Torah or blowing the shofar at High Holiday services, don't wait to fill out this form.

Call Scott Mezistrano at 681-1714 ASAP!

Your Name _____

Phone Number(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

- ☐ I can read Hebrew well
- ☐ I would like to learn a Hebrew chant

I will be at the following services:

- ☐ All services

Rosh Hashanah

- ☐ Wednesday evening (Ma'ariv), September 19
- ☐ Thursday morning (Shacharit and Musaf), September 20
- ☐ Friday morning (Shacharit & Musaf), September 21

Yom Kippur

- ☐ Friday evening (Kol Nidre), September 28
- ☐ Saturday morning (Shacharit and Musaf), September 29
- ☐ Saturday late afternoon (Yizkor and Neilah), September 29

I would prefer reading at _____

There will be practice sessions following services on Friday, August 31 and Friday, September 7 for anyone who wants to practice a part. You are required to attend at least one session if you are chanting a prayer or a portion from the Torah.

Contributions

Sha'ar Zahav welcomes all contributions, of all sizes, to mark any event, and to any of our funds. Contributions will be acknowledged in the *Forward* unless requested otherwise.

Donations were made to Sha'ar Zahav's funds in the past months by the following contributors:

AIDS Fund

Isabelle Fishman

Bruce Katz, in memory of Michael Lipson

Lin Turner, in honor of Jeff Rubin's birthday and Mike Rankin's promotion

Beth Kivel, in memory of Florence Gross, 1893-1988

Neil Hart, in memory of Tim Elliot

Hal Podgur, in memory of Phil Duer

Education Fund

Marc Lipschutz, in honor of Allan Gold, Irene Ogus, Mike Rankin and Jonathan Schwartz

Susan Douglass, in appreciation of the Shabbaton at Camp Swig

Sinai Memorial Chapel

General Fund

Stephanie Hannaford, in memory of Dora Yoffie

Rabbi Steven Folberg

Eric Keitel and Aaron Cooper, in honor of Leslie Bergson's acceptance into rabbinic school, and in honor of Rosalinda del Moral's new job

Nathan and Joan Lipson, in memory of Mike Lipson

Jerry Rosenstein

Merry Luskin, in honor of all the wonderful catalysts of Sha'ar Zahav

Library Fund

Rachel Mailman, in honor of Phyllis Mintzer's inspired teaching

Zelda & Oscar Blechman, proud of their son's work on the 13th Anniversary Issue of the *Forward*

Prayerbook Fund

Betty Kalis, in memory of Rose Jacobstein

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Shaul Van Essen

Richard Sinkoff, in recognition of Ron Lezell's tremendous efforts to organize the recently completed four-part Israel education series

Richard Goldwasser, M.D., in memory of Samuel Ralph Goldwasser

Nathan and Joan Lipson, in memory of Michael Lipson

Social Action Fund

Russell Discher, in memory of Guy Mannheimer

Sandra Lofchie, in memory of Jenny Andelman Lofchie and Robbie Marie Anderson

Torah Fund

Don Albert, in honor of Leslie Bergson's long-overdue admission into HUC-JIR

Betty Kalis and Marion Trentman, in honor of Leslie Bergson

Naches

To **Jonathan Funk**, on the recent purchase of his new home in San Francisco and on his new job with Griffinger, Levinson, Freed & Heinemann in San Francisco.

To **Jody Adelberg and Luanne Jenkins**, on the birth of their daughter on May 17, Elaya Blaine Jenkins-Adelberg.

To **Robert Hodgson**, this year's Kadimah teacher, who completed the Bureau of Jewish Education's LAATID professional enrichment program.

To **Sen Talley**, on her new job (though we'll miss her—it's in Denver!).

To **Rosalinda del Moral**, on her new job at Decorator's Walk working for CSZ member David Stein.

To **Leslie Bergson** on her acceptance to the rabbinic program of Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. She left for Jerusalem at the end of June.

Education Committee

Learn to Make Ritual Objects

Mizrachim

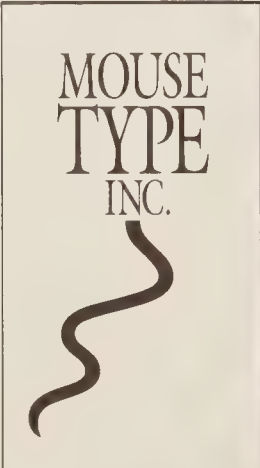
Claire Sherman will teach us how to make paper-cut Mizrachim on July 15 at 11 am. Wonderful, you say, but what is a Mizrach? In Hebrew it means the place where the sun rises, the east. Traditionally Jews have always faced east, toward Jerusalem, when praying. Therefore, it was the custom to hang an illustration to mark the east wall in their homes or synagogue. These illustrations, of plants and animals mentioned in the Bible, were often handsome examples of folk art.

Ms. Sherman will show illustrations of contemporary and historical Mizrachim and other paper-cuts. She will also teach simple Hebrew calligraphy. You will design and create your own Mizrach.

Amulets

Amulets have been used throughout history for protection against evil. Claire Sherman will teach a course on August 5 in the history and function of amulets, with Talmudic references. She will show examples of contemporary and historical amulets. Explanations will be given of the significance of different shaped amulets, including the hamsa. Substitution codes, notarikon and other ways of writing amulets will be demonstrated. Each person will make one amulet.

For each of these courses the cost is \$8 for members and \$12 for non-members, plus a \$3 materials fee. Please call and make reservations through the office as soon as possible.



**Need to prepare a flyer
for your chavurah's
next event?**

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558-8998**

We typeset the *Forward* every month.

Yahrzeits

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <p>7/1 William S. Gross, father of Roger Gross</p> <p>7/2 Renato De Leon, friend of Eve Meyer</p> <p>7/3 Ben Young, uncle of Barry Klezmer</p> <p>7/3 (Tammuz 10) Hyman Witt, father of Sue Witt</p> <p>7/4 Bob Russell, friend of Jeffrey Cohen</p> <p>7/4 Mark Metcalf, friend of Jill Rose</p> <p>7/4 Ed Gabay, member of Congregation Sha'ar Zahav</p> <p>7/6 Edward Ingersoll, father of Alex Ingersoll</p> <p>7/6 (Tammuz 13) Charles Crane, father of Rick Crane</p> <p>7/9 Charlotte Lucas, mother of George Lucas</p> <p>7/9 Ana Heitner, grandmother of Jose Luis Moscovich</p> <p>7/11 (Tammuz 18) Gussie Paker, mother of Perry Paker</p> <p>7/12 Lillian Fox, aunt of Tiela Chalmers</p> <p>7/13 (Tammuz 20) Angelo Nacamulli, father of Robert and Steven Nacamulli</p> <p>7/13 Jim Henchey, friend of Susan Gelmis</p> <p>7/14 Vera Jane Schwartz, mother of Judy Schwartz</p> <p>7/15 Allan Zimmerman, father of Mike Zimmerman</p> <p>7/16 Sara H., daughter of Dan H.</p> <p>7/17 Steven Berman, member of Congregation Sha'ar Zahav</p> <p>7/18 Eli Shaber, father of David Shaber</p> <p>7/18 (Tammuz 25) Rachael Zuflacht, grandmother of Elliot Gordon</p> <p>7/19 Lewis J. Ruskin, father of Pamela Ruskin</p> <p>7/19 Seymour Gelfand, father of Joan Gelfand</p> <p>7/20 Hugh Martin, friend of Lonnie Weiss</p> <p>7/20 Joseph Weinstein, father of Ernie Weinstein</p> <p>7/22 Goldie Berman, grandmother of Nancy Epstein</p> <p>7/23 Richard Blanc, father of Paul Blanc</p> <p>7/23 Helene Blau, grandmother of Lonnie Weiss</p> <p>7/24 Adele Kuluk, mother of Ida Kuluk</p> <p>7/25 LeRoi Baldwin, father of Lawney Baldwin</p> | <p>7/26 Meyer Kurtz, uncle of Susan Greenspan</p> <p>7/26 Rose Stollowitz, friend of Mike Rankin</p> <p>7/27 Gershon Taitelbaum, grandfather of Yael Silverberg-Willis</p> <p>7/29 Ernst Rosenstein, brother of Jerry Rosenstein</p> <p>7/29 (Av 7) Aron Friedman, father of Sanford Friedman</p> <p>7/31 (Av 9) Bessie Wald, grandmother of Rochelle Wald</p> <p>7/31 (Av 9) Sadie Radetsky, grandmother of Allan Berenstein</p> <p>8/2 David Kotch, lover of Michael Erceg and member of Congregation Sha'ar Zahav</p> <p>8/5 Phillip Zelvin, grandfather of Richard Goldwasser</p> <p>8/5 Banesh Hoffman, father of Deborah Hoffman</p> <p>8/6 (Av 15) Manuel Nachman, father of Sen Talley</p> <p>8/6 Peter Augusto, friend of Bill Ashley-Dobbin</p> <p>8/6 Joel Polsky, brother of Steve Polsky</p> <p>8/6 Jay Platt, member of Congregation Sha'ar Zahav</p> <p>8/8 Leo Leyser, grandfather of Kipp Leyser</p> <p>8/8 (Av 17) Ashley Dobbin, father of Bill Ashley-Dobbin</p> <p>8/8 Ann Miller, mother of Pamela Miller</p> <p>8/8 Mark Landsberger, member of Congregation Sha'ar Zahav</p> <p>8/9 Gladys Yoverbaum Hyman, grandmother of Barry Klezmer</p> <p>8/9 Miriam Honigstein, mother of Devorah Honigstein</p> <p>8/11 Sarah Slepian, mother of Arthur Slepian</p> <p>8/12 Abraham Fishman, husband of Isabel Fishman</p> <p>8/12 George Gaynes, father of Steve Gaynes</p> <p>8/13 Saul M. Mesinger, father of Jonathan Mesinger</p> <p>8/14 Eugene Childress, brother of Joyce Amburgey</p> <p>8/14 Sylvia Reidler, mother of Amy Blasenheim</p> <p>8/15 (Av 24) Henry Stuchinsky, father of Laura Susan Stuchinsky</p> <p>8/15 (Av 24) Golda Rudman, grandmother of Rick Crane</p> <p>8/15 (Av 24) Fanny Prochovnick, grandmother of Ora Prochovnick</p> | <p>8/15 Samuel Minsky, grandfather of Mike Rankin</p> <p>8/17 Isadore Louis Stahl, grandfather of Susan Stahl</p> <p>8/18 Estella Mantey, grandmother of Bill Schlichter</p> <p>8/18 Benny Prengler, uncle of Ann Biderman</p> <p>8/19 (Av 28) Noah Resnick, father of Florence Nacamulli</p> <p>8/20 Michael L. Spencer, life partner of Stan Osofsky</p> <p>8/21 (Av 30) Morris Charney, father of Seth Charney</p> <p>8/23 Geraldine Marcus, mother of Frank Hyman</p> <p>8/25 Marc Bliefeld, friend of Carole Migden</p> <p>8/28 (Elul 7) Robert Kalman, brother of Marilyn Kalman</p> <p>8/28 Victoria E. Tirschwell, mother of Deborah Tirschwell</p> |
|---|--|---|

Condolences

To **Jonathan Goldman** on the loss of his lover, Roger Vickery.



RALPH FRISCHMAN
DESIGN CONSULTANTS

345 VERMONT STREET
SAN FRANCISCO CA 94103
415 626 9914

• • • •

Va'ad Reports

(Continued from page 5)

al for display of a photograph of the UAHC AIDS quilt panel through June.

At the request of Brett Trueman, the Va'ad approved the purchase of NewViews, an accounting software package used by Berkeley Hillel as well as many other non-profit groups. NewViews has many more features than our current SMART software, and is several thousands of dollars less expensive than temple management software. Merry Luskin, chair of the membership committee, presented four new individuals and they were unanimously voted in as members. The meeting adjourned just past 10 pm with the singing of Oseh Shalom.

The June Va'ad meeting, the last for this Va'ad, began with the presentation of a dozen roses to Eric, a token of the Va'ad's appreciation for his fine leadership over the past year. After check-in Rabbi Kahn led us in D'var Torah with an excerpt from Pirkei Avot: "You are not required to complete the work, but neither are you at liberty to abstain from it." He then reported that the Scholar-in-Residence weekend had been a good one, with people commenting favorably on the services and other activities. The rabbi also reminded Va'ad members that the building is not to be used for non-Jewish purposes on holidays, including Shabbat.

Eric Keitel informed the Va'ad that Bet Mishpachah, our sibling congregation in Washington, D.C., voted to hire a part-time rabbi. He reported on projects in progress, such as participation in the Gay Freedom Day parade, redesign of the office, and sponsorship of a new yearzeit board. Eric discussed activities of the Personnel Committee, including the review and revision of job descriptions for office staff, a recommendation to increase the hours of Josephine Crimmins, our office secretary, and the plan to answer telephones from 10 am to 2 pm only during the day so that office staff will have some concentrated blocks of time to do their work. The Va'ad then passed a motion to increase Josephine's hours from 30 to 35 per week. Eric ended by reading thank-you letters from both ARZA and Operation Exodus for our recent contributions towards the resettlement of Soviet Jews in Israel.

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Merry Luskin, incoming president, announced that Allan Gold's name will be submitted to the Va'ad at the July meeting for approval as vice president for the coming year, and read the names of new committee chairs: Lane Schickler for Bikkur Cholim, Nancy-Carol Adler for Membership, Ellen Gierson and Peter Vishniac for Children's Education, Eric Keitel for Brotherhood, and Aaron Cooper for Children's Chavurah.

Brett Trueman did not have a monthly financial statement available, but will be presenting a quarterly statement for April through June 1990 at the July Va'ad meeting. Some Va'ad members expressed concern that the last financial statement presented for review was March. Brett spoke about the impact of Ben Schalit's resignation as well as the conversion to new accounting software and said that monthly financial statements will be available again in the coming year. Brett discussed computer needs for the office, and Va'ad members talked about the need for long-range planning in this area. New hardware and software are being purchased and installed now in response to both turnover in officers and staff and long-standing needs based on growth in the congregation and increased demands on our existing computers. The Va'ad passed a motion to spend up to \$1,000

for the system proposed by Brett, to be purchased from Hitech USA, who came in with the most competitive bid.

Mark Pressler attended his first Va'ad meeting as our new office manager. He familiarized himself with his role at the meetings, reviewed his written report, and spoke about a volunteer coordination workshop which he will attend.

Ann Biderman spoke about the women's dance, which was not as well attended or as profitable as the previous one. She suggested that the dance be held after High Holidays in the future, to take advantage of the publicity and momentum during that time. Ron Lezell and Jonathan Mesinger spoke about Operation Exodus, and the Va'ad passed a motion to set up a mechanism within the CSZ budget to allow people to make contributions to ARZA or the JCF for this effort through us. Jonathan assured the Va'ad that funds raised through these organizations do not go towards settlement of Soviet Jews in the West Bank or Gaza. Allan Gold spoke briefly about the Election Committee's report (from the May Va'ad meeting), and recommended the Va'ad look at new ways to get people invested in leadership in the future. Merry Luskin, outgoing chair of the membership committee, presented one new individual who was unanimously voted in as a member. The meeting adjourned just past 9 pm with mutual appreciation and a nostalgic rendition of Oseh Shalom.

Classifieds

ADVERTISING ACCOUNT COORDINATOR. Full-time position available in agency specializing in recruitment advertising and services. Fast-paced and varied environment with a small, congenial staff. This is a task-oriented position supporting senior staff and requires excellent communication skills and strong customer service orientation. You will work independently and also as part of a team and you must have good attention to detail, flexibility and the ability to take direction. Accurate typing skills required; computer literacy and some advertising experience helpful. Non-smoker. Office located in S.F. Financial District. Hours: Mon.-Fri. 8:30-5:00. Call Eileen or Lydia at 788-8444.

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President's Column

(Continued from page 1)

made by a group of people who were celebrating the building of their church, and I suppose they were selling the quilt to help pay for the building. The quilt showed the church itself and the names of the donors, builders, building committee, and pastor. It was so exciting to me that everyone got to use their own special talents and interests to create the home for their relationship with God and with each other. As the Names Project has so beautifully demonstrated, quilts are a wonderful means for expression and healing.

Times being what they were, the builders and the board members were probably men, and the quilters were probably women. Probably at Sha'ar Zahav it would be the other way around, though I still would be one of the quilters. But anyway, the women's work was equally important as the men's, because they were making something *very* beautiful that was financing the building. So *everyone* expressed themselves and used their own special talents for the love of God and their spiritual community. By the way, this was not a little town in Nebraska but Los Angeles in 1904.

The article did not inspire me to make a quilt for Sha'ar Zahav, though I may knit a handspun sweater for the Chanukah auction. But it tickled me because it reminded me that I often forget to seek my own special spot here. I find myself trying to fit what I think I am supposed to be like—a dignified board member, a fiscally responsible officer, a member of the established Jewish community, a person who wears dresses when appropriate. Or whatever. But the quilt story reminded me that what I love about Sha'ar Zahav is that from the start it really *was* fine to be my own peculiar self. Whatever I had to offer has always been welcome, and I have been encouraged to find gifts in myself that I didn't know I had. Robin, Eric, Rabbi Kahn, and so many others, as hard-working and talented as they are, have taken so much time and care to help me bloom. I hope I can do the same for others.

I may know how to sew, but it takes a whole lot of us together to make the

Synagogue Information

Rabbi Yoel Kahn

Officers:

President, Merry Luskin
Vice President, vacant
Treasurer, Brett Trueman
Recorder, Gail Friedlander

Va'ad (Board) Members:

Claudia Bernard
Ann Biderman
Tiela Chalmers
Lisa Katz
Jeffrey Miller
Jose Luis Moscovich
Alita Rosenfeld
Judy Schwartz

Committee Chairs:

Bikkur Cholim, Lane Schickler
Brotherhood, Eric Keitel
Building, Jeffrey Miller
Bylaws, Edward Pollack
Cemetery, Richard Inlander
Children's Chavurah, Aaron Cooper
Cookbook Project, Robin Leonard
Education, Elliot Gordon
Finance, Jerry Rosenstein
Gift Shop, Richard Inlander
Israel Chavurah, Ron Lezell
Long-Range Planning, Tiela Chalmers & Daniel Chesir
Membership, Nancy-Carol Adler
Newsletter, Howard Blechman & Alita Rosenfeld
Oneg, Lin Turner
Past Presidents Council, Don Albert
Personnel, Irene Ogus
Public Relations, Sharyn Saslafsky
Rabbi Liaison, Aaron Cooper
Religious School, Ellen Gierson & Peter Vishniac
Ritual, by committee
Social Action, Jonathan Mesinger & Lisa Katz

Social Program, Marc Mencher
Spirituality Chavurah, Larry Wexler
Women's Chavurah, Ann Biderman

Office Personnel:

Manager, Mark Pressler
Secretary, Josephine Crimmins

Office Hours: Mon. 8–5; Tues. 8–4:30; Wed., Thu. 8–2:30; Fri. 8–3. Phones will be answered Mon.–Fri. 10–2.

Emergency Number: In an emergency, the Congregation can be contacted outside of office hours by calling 420-9718.

Services are held every Friday evening beginning at 8:15 pm (except as noted), with an Oneg Shabbat following services. Services are generally held on the second and last Saturday of each month at 10:30 am—check calendar for each month.

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav (Congregation of the Golden Gate) is located in the Upper Market District of San Francisco at 220 Danvers at Caselli, which is one block south of the intersection of 18th & Market streets. By public transport, take MUNI bus 33 Stanyan to 18th & Danvers and walk one block south on Danvers to Caselli.

Member Union of American Hebrew Congregations (Richard Inlander, Mike Rankin, Liaisons) and World Congress of Gay and Lesbian Jewish Organizations (Robin Leonard Liaison).

quilt. We don't all do it the same way; some of us make nice neat little knots and tiny little stitches, while others paint with broader strokes, to mix metaphors. Some of us do fundraising, while others talk to God, and some do a little of both.

The wonderful thing about this mish-mash is that we end up with our own quilt, different from all others, yet recognizable and related to all the other Jewish quilts in the world. Shabbat Shalom.

—Merry Luskin

Registration Form



City, State, Zip: _____

Accomodations

Home Hospitality

Other requirements:

Hotel

Note: Group rates are available for ten or more rooms for \$6 less per room. If ten or more rooms are requested, we will refund your savings.



Please enclose your conference fee and tour and hotel accomodation fees, if any, in a check made out to Congregation Tikvah Chadashah, and mail to CTC, P.O. Box 2731, Seattle, WA 98111.

The 1990
Western Regional Conference of the
World Congress of Gay & Lesbian
Jewish Organizations

Program Schedule



Friday:

8:15 - c.11:00 Shabbat service and Oneg Shabbat

Saturday:

10:00 - 12:00 Shabbat morning service and Torah Study

12:00 - 1:00 Lunch

1:15 - 3:15 Workshop Session A
Working Topics:
Creative Liturgy - Lesbian, Gay, Feminist
Lesbian/Gay and Jewish - From Coping to Activism

3:30 - 5:30 Workshop Session B
Working Topics:
Jewish/Non-Jewish Relationships
Judaism and Other Religions

6:00 - 8:00 Dinner, Banquet, Havdalah

8:00 - 11:00 Entertainment and Dance
Probably the Mazeltones -- local Klezmer band par excellance

11:00 - Optional bar tour(s)

Sunday: Optional city tour(s)

We are open to the possibility of adding another workshop or two for Sessions A and B if more people attend than can comfortably constitute a workshop as presently proposed or if any of you would like to offer a workshop on another topic. Please contact Charna Klein if you would like to participate as a workshop leader or panelist on any of the proposed or other workshop topics. A development workshop given by a development director will also be offered.

